

Inquiries

Low-Income Energy Assistance Grants (Request for Proposal dated February 25, 2011)

Q. Is a church that has status as a 501c3 nonprofit with the State of Michigan eligible to apply for a grant?

A. Yes, a church with nonprofit status is eligible.

Q. With regard to the eligibility verification requirements set forth in Appendix C of the Request for Proposal (RFP), will the State provide selected applicants with the forms needed to verify the eligibility of energy assistance applicants?

A. No, selected applicants will be responsible for developing eligibility verification forms and documents for their organizations.

Q. Is a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) eligible to apply for a grant?

A. An LLC is not eligible. Applicants must be nonprofit or public organizations offering service to low-income residents in Michigan. For the purpose of this grant program, governmental agencies and educational institutions are considered public organizations. Please refer to the RFP, Section I-B.

Q. The RFP Statement of Purpose states, “Grants may be used to . . . revise existing eligibility guidelines to serve clients otherwise unable to obtain assistance through current programs. Eligible clients are . . . at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. . . .” In Section V-E(1)(c) the RFP again states, “Eligible clients’ income cannot exceed 200%. . . .” Please clarify whether income level is considered one of the existing guidelines that may be revised to serve more clients.

A. Eligible clients are low-income individuals and/or households whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.¹ If an organization currently serves clients whose income is at a level below 200% (e.g. 150% FPG), the organization may revise those guidelines and use grant funds to serve low-income clients whose income is up to 200% of FPG. However, grant funds may not be used to serve clients whose income is above 200% FPG.

¹ <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>